

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound having the general formula (I)  
 $M_5(AO_4)_3X$ ,  
wherein  
M represents Ba, Sr, Ca or a mixture thereof;  
A represents P, V or a mixture thereof; and  
wherein the group  $M_5(AO_4)_3$  forms an apatite structure and X is situated in the hexagonal channels of the apatite structure and includes Cu-atoms, with the proviso that the compound is not  $Sr_5(VO_4)_3(CuO)$ ,  $Sr_5(VO_4)_3(Cu_{0.894}O_{0.952})$ , or  $(Sr_{0.9}Ca_{0.1})_5(Cr^VO_4)_3(CuO)$ .
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein X further represents a certain fraction of  $Cu^{2+}$ , and/or  $Cu^+$ , and  $O^{2-}$  ions mixed with anions such as  $OH^-$ ,  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $Br^-$  and/or  $I^-$ .
4. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein X comprises copper ions.
5. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X comprises  $Cu^{2+}$ .
6. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein linear units O-Cu-O are present in the hexagonal channels of the apatite structure.
7. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X represents  $Cu_xO_yH_z$ , wherein  $0 < x \leq 0.85$ ,  $0 \leq z < 1$  and  $0.5 < y \leq 1$ .

8. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 7, wherein  $0.1 \leq x \leq 0.6$ .
9. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents P.
- 10-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a compound of claim 1 comprising the steps
  - (i) mixing of carbonates of M, Cu-compounds, and  $(\text{NH}_4)\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$  or a V-compound or mixtures thereof,
  - (ii) thermal treatment of this mixture in solid state in air at 600 to 850°C for 1 to 5 hours,
  - (iii) regrinding,
  - (iv) thermal treatment in air at 1100 to 1400°C for about 1 to 24 hours,
  - (v) air quenching and
  - (vi) regrinding.
16. (Previously Presented) Pigment comprising a compound of claim 1.
17. (Previously Presented) Pigment according to claim 16, wherein X in the compound of general formula (I) comprises  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .
18. (Previously Presented) A method of coloring a material comprising adding the pigment of claim 16 to the material.
- 19-20. (Cancelled)